

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1284

INFO USIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12638

E.O. 11652: GDS; TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: INDIAN RESPONSE TO REPORTED COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

1. FOLLOWING PUBLICATION IN THE DELHI PRESS THIS MORNING
SEPTEMBER 18) OF REPORTED COMMENTS ON THE EMERGENCY BY PRESIDENT
FORD, THE PRESS SPOKESMAN FOR THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THIS
EVENING READ OUT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AS CARRIED BY THE
INDIAN WIRE SERVICES:

2. "IT IS AMAZING THAT THE PRESIDENT OF US HAS CHOSEN TO COMMENT
ON THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A FRIENDLY COUNTRY WITHOUT DUE APPRECI-
ATION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS OF THE INTERNAL
POLITICS OF THE US ON WHICH IT IS POSSIBLE TO COMMENT, INCLUDING THE
SITUATION OF CIVIL
LIBERTIES AND THE EXTRA-ORDINARY POWERS EXERCISED
BY THE EXECUTIVE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT THE ACCEPTED NORMS
AND COURTESIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DO NOT PERMIT OF OFFICIAL
COMMENTS FROM OUTSIDE.

3. EVERY SOCIETY TAKES MEASURES TO PROTECT ITS STABILITY AND IDEALS,
INDIA NO LESS THAN THE UNITED STATES. THE INDIAN PEOPLE ARE
COMMITTED TO DEMOCRACY AS ENSHRINED IN THEIR CONSTITUTION AND THE
MEASURES TAKEN IN INDIA HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTIT-
UTION. THE COMMENTS OF THE U S PRESIDENT HAVE NATURALLY EVOKED STRONG

FEELINGS AMONG THE INDIAN PEOPLE."

4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S
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REMARKS FIRST ARRIVED IN NEW DELHI, THE CENSOR ORDERED THAT IT NOT BE

PRINTED. LATER, THE ORDERS WERE REVERSED ON THE CONDITION THAT THE STORIES BE PRE-CENSORED. AT THAT TIME IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE GOI INTENDED TO REPLY.

5. BEFORE WE HAD SEEN THE TEXT OF THE INDIAN STATEMENT, TEJA, JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE AMERICAS, TOLD US "UNOFFICIALLY" THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REPORTED STATEMENT WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO CHANGE FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN'S WASHINGTON PLANS

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE UNSIGNED AS RECEIVED

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